



# GF&RD

## VOLUNTEER

# TIMES

CERT | Fire Corps | Community Assistance

## Kim's Corner:

Happy 2019! I hope this greets each of you embracing the new year and all of the possibilities and opportunities that are ahead with a sense of adventure and happiness!

As I reflect back on last quarter and all of our volunteers for the time you shared and helped us achieved our project goals or supported the department's overall mission I am moved by your generosity, kindness and compassion. Everyday Heroes event is one such example. This was our largest year ever, with hundreds of attendees from the foster care system attending. Truly everyone involved from the fire crews to volunteers provided the children an afternoon of enjoying themselves at the fire station, feeling safe and building relationships. Thank you and please be sure to check out some of the pictures from the event later in this newsletter.



Kudos to our volunteers that have embraced educating children about the importance of prevention and share their time volunteering at Safety Town with Jean Sperke. The time you share at these events helps inform children on the actions they can take to stay safe.

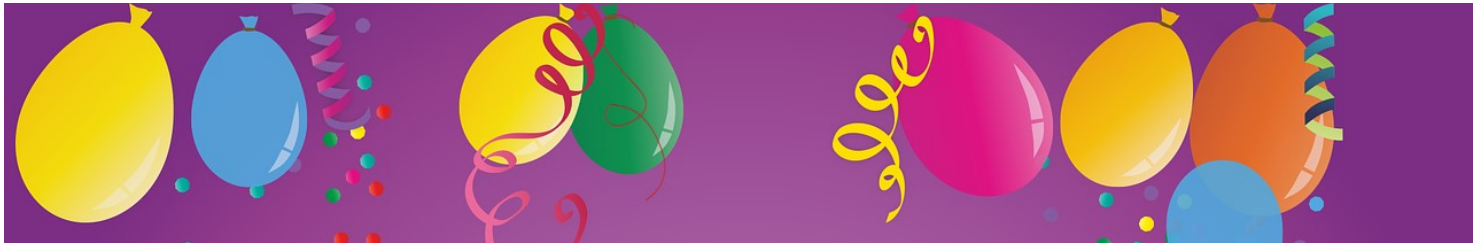
Our Annual Meeting is rapidly approaching. Please remember to sign up online for one of the meetings in February. This is the meeting of the year as we Shake, Rattle and Roll! Filled with fun, information and team building and I always enjoy seeing who will come dressed to match the meeting's theme!

As Robin Howard once said, "Take time first thing to visualize an incredible day".

2019...The best is yet to come!

Kim



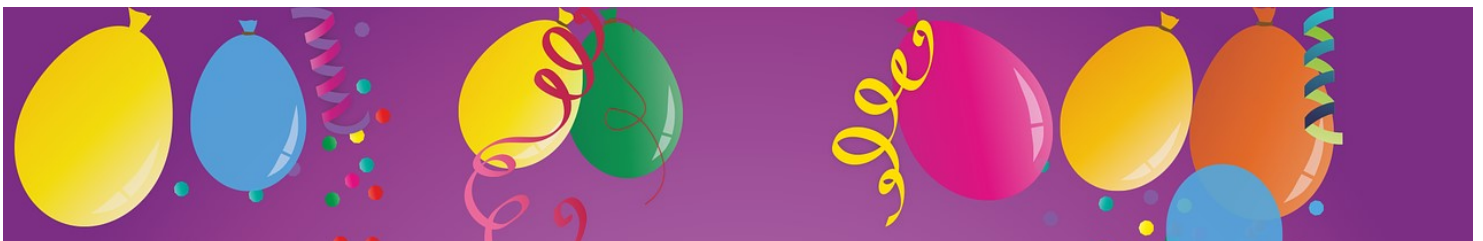


**WISHING THESE VOLUNTEERS AN EXTRAORDINARY MONTH  
AS THEY CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY IN JANUARY**

Missy Beauchamp  
Braden Eskew  
Diane Howard  
Jessica Pio  
Curt Ward



Dianna Erickson  
Marinos Garbis  
Ryan Keating  
Dan Reynolds



## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CLASSES

# CERT

## COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

GILBERT FIRE & RESCUE

### TO REGISTER

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[GILBERTAZ.GOV/VOLUNTEER-FIRE](http://GILBERTAZ.GOV/VOLUNTEER-FIRE)

CERT classes provide citizens with the basic skills needed to offer immediate assistance to family & neighbors during an emergency.

### SPRING 2019 - CLASS 39 UPCOMING CLASSES

Wednesday | January 30, 2019 | 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Disaster Preparedness & Terrorism

Wednesday | February 6, 2019 | 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Fire Safety

Wednesday | February 13, 2019 | 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Medical Operations I

Wednesday | February 20, 2019 | 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Medical Operations II

Wednesday | February 27, 2019 | 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Search & Rescue

Wednesday | March 6, 2019 | 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Disaster Psychology

Wednesday | March 13, 2019 | 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Skills Development



### WHERE?

Gilbert Fire & Rescue Amphitheater  
85 E. Civic Center Drive  
Gilbert, AZ 85295

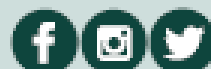
### CLASS INFORMATION:

For a more in depth summary of each class, please visit our website.

[gilbertaz.gov/volunteer-fire](http://gilbertaz.gov/volunteer-fire)



CONNECT WITH US | @GILBERTFIREDEPT



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

(480) 503-6300 | [KIM.YONDA-LEAD@GILBERTAZ.GOV](mailto:KIM.YONDA-LEAD@GILBERTAZ.GOV)

# **You've Been Spotted!**

**Heather Balch**

**Alex Castillo**

**Kathy Deaver**

**Debbie Dompier**

**Ryan Keating**

**Larry MacDonald**

**Megan Madison**

**Karla Moore**

**Jeff Taylor**

# VIP

Gayle Schmidt has been a Gilbert CERT Volunteer for eight years.

Originally, Gayle was a “California Girl” who grew up in San Mateo, CA on the peninsula just south of San Francisco. She went to Marquette University Dental School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where she graduated with a Dental Hygiene Degree. She met her husband, Bill, at Dental School and they set up their Dental Practice in San Jose, CA. They both practiced Dentistry from 1974 - 2004 (30 Years).



In 2002, they went to Rochester, NY for their son's graduation from Rochester Institute of Technology. It was there they fell in love with the concept of Buffalo Wild Wings. They sold their dental practice and moved to Gilbert, AZ where they opened their first Buffalo Wild Wings on Gilbert and Warner in 2004. They currently operate two stores one in Gilbert and one in Casa Grande.

Gayle's greatest challenge was learning a new profession during the rough economic years. There's a big difference between Dentistry and the Restaurant Industry. The one thing you can be assured of in our restaurant... is that it's definitely clean and sterile. She also had just finished her cancer treatments as she was opening up the stores. She has been cancer free now 17 years.

She has volunteered as an Ambassador for the Gilbert Chamber and for a short time with the Police Dept. but she's passionate about serving with the Gilbert Fire & Rescue Volunteers. Her philosophy for volunteering is - "Wherever you are be there 100% and get better every day, so the next time, you have even more to give!"

Gayle has been blessed with several accomplishments. In Dentistry, she won a Preventive Practice of the Year award in 2000. She had the opportunity to travel the country and internationally to speak to dental audiences and had a book published on marketing a Dental Practice. When she moved to Gilbert, Buffalo Wild Wings won Family Business of the Year and in 2010 Gayle was awarded Business Woman of the Year. She has been licensed in several professions: Cosmetology, Aesthetician, Real Estate, and as a Dental Hygiene Instructor and almost got certified in Court Reporting. Even though she's won all sorts of awards, she claims that her best accomplishment of which she is most proud of is having a wonderful family with six grandchildren to spoil. And, you know it's a great accomplishment when they ask to spend a day with grandma shopping and going out to lunch for their birthday present.

Gayle's favorite thing to do for play is to organize and orchestrate games. From card games, to board games, Minute to Win It Games, electronic games, lawn games there's always a game to be played with her. Gayle's all time three favorite movies are "The Greatest Showman," "The Lion King," and "High School Musical 1-2 & 3".

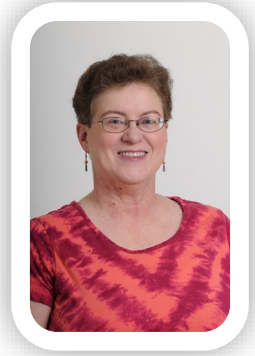
When not volunteering, Gayle's time is spent with her family. In particular, they enjoy the Disney Cruises with the whole family.

*~Written by Judy Slack*

# VIP

Marna Fontana has volunteered with GFRD for six years. She is involved with Fire Corps and CERT. She enjoys giving back to the community. She's a nurse and enjoys using her skills in a different way.

Marna was born in Illinois but moved to Arizona at age 8. She has lived in Gilbert for 25 years and has seen a lot of change from the small farming town it was back then.



In the past, Marna was also very active with AACN (American Association of Critical Care Nurses) and volunteer events with Aetna.

Her biggest challenge has been managing that work/life balance and feels her biggest accomplishment is yet to come.

Marna is most proud of making a major dream come true of purchasing a cabin in the woods in Pinetop-Lakeside.

She is passionate about retiring: "Hurry up already!" She cannot wait because there are so many other things she wants to do besides work. Her hobbies include hiking and kayaking.

Marna's volunteer philosophy is that those who are lucky enough to have so much should share that wealth with others.

*~Written by Judy Slack*



# Everyday Heroes Event



# Happy Anniversary COM 251

I started my training for COM251 in November of 2008: class #2. It's hard to believe that 10 years have passed. So many things have changed as COM251 evolved through the years to become the exceptional program it is today. Here are a few of the changes I remember.

When we arrived for a shift, we arrived at the cubicle in front of Assistant Chief Duggan's office. We had one cubicle and Kim had the other one. Everything we had for the Suburban fit in that space.

Each shift we had to load our supplies, including the cooler, on to the dolly and into the Suburban. At the end of shift we unloaded and put it back in the cubicle.

Kim was in the cubicle next to us and Chief Dewitt's office was in the corner where he could see and hear us as we loaded or worked on reports. Sometime during the first year of service, Kim was moved to her office and COM251 was able to use both cubicles.

About the third year of the program, COM251 was moved out of the cubicles into the offices where Spring, David Zehring and Josh Freidman currently are. At about this time, we were required to wear steel-toed boots, but had to leave them at Admin. This room had a perfect area with cubbyholes to hold our boots. About two years later we were moved back out to the workspaces where Stephanie is now. This was quite a move for COM251, as we were used to the luxury of the larger room. Little did we know that the next move would be the best one yet; to Station 7.

We were not allowed to wear our uniforms to and from shift so we had to arrive early enough to change clothes, and then change again at the end of shift.

There was one radio and no MCT.

Our reports were all hand written and the Department Errand program did not exist. If we had a request it was written down, sometimes on post-it notes and put on the clipboard.

We had to log our mileage in a logbook. Each time we drove anywhere, we posted the beginning mileage, then the ending mileage.

For the first several years, there was one computer that had limited access. After the move to Station 7, each volunteer was given access to the computer and an email address. We now individually sign in and are able to retrieve email and use the Department Errand Program.

These are just a few of the changes I can remember as COM251 has grown to the outstanding program that it is today. Each shift brings opportunity to help in some way, from helping a family on a code to changing batteries in a smoke detector. As I look back at the first shift I was on I realize that I enjoy it now as much as I did 10 years ago. I enjoy the team of volunteers that have become my friends. I enjoy the dedication and passion that every volunteer has towards helping the citizens of Gilbert in any way they can, small or big.

Happy anniversary COM251!!!

*~Written by Dianna Erickson*



# Applause!

Kudos to Ira Goode who was spotted on the NextDoor App promoting our CERT Program. Way to encourage the community to attend CERT and become a Volunteer. Thank you Ira for Telling Your Story related to volunteerism!

## FELLOW FIRE STATIONS

Ryan, Abby and Lucy Keating in their fire engine at the Fire and Police Academy Ride at Lego Land.



# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

January 16th	6-9pm	Bloodborne	Room 6	CERT, Fire Corps
January 30th	6-9pm	Disaster Preparedness/ Terrorism	Amphitheater	CERT
February 2nd	9am-12pm	CPR/AED	Room 6	CERT, Fire Corps
February 6th	6-9pm	Fire Safety	Amphitheater	CERT
February 13th	6-9pm	Med Ops 1	Amphitheater	CERT
February 20th	6-9pm	Med Ops 2	Amphitheater	CERT
February 23rd	9am-12pm	Annual Meeting	Amphitheater	CERT, Fire Corps
February 27th	6-9pm	Search & Rescue	Amphitheater	CERT
February 28th	6-9pm	Annual Meeting	Amphitheater	CERT, Fire Corps



**Reminder: Fire Administration will be closed January 21st in Honor of Martin Luther King Jr Day and February 18th in Honor of President's Day**